

Serial No. 10/733,877

**Remarks**

Claims 91-118 are pending in this application. Claims 91-118 have been cancelled by amendment and new claims 119-137 have been added to address issues raised by the Examiner in the pending Office Action. Applicants assert that the new claims present no issue of new matter. Bases for the amendments may be found in the specification as follows:

- a) generic expression: page 9, line 5 – page 10, line 29;
- b) preference for W together with  $-C(H)_pC(=X)-$  forming a lactam: page 94, line 20 – page 98, line 27;
- c) lactam exemplification: Table 6-1, page 112; Table 6-2, pages 112 – 113; Table 7-1, pages 114 – 116; Table 7-2, page 116; and Table 7C-1, pages 117 – 124.

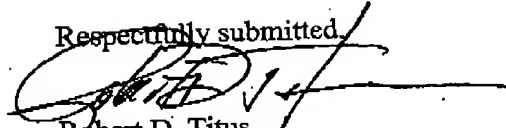
Entry of the amendments and reconsideration of the claims in view of the amendments are respectfully requested.

Claims 91-118 are subject to a restriction requirement in view of the ring systems embraced by variable W together with  $-C(H)_pC(=X)-$ . The Examiner alleges that the structural diversity represented by these ring systems encompasses several patentably distinct and independent classes of compounds. The Examiner further alleges that the search required for structural diversity of this magnitude is too burdensome for the office. The newly presented claims encompass a subset of the original genus, limiting the ring systems embraced by variable W together with  $-C(H)_pC(=X)-$  to an optionally substituted caprolactam fused to form a bi- or multi-fused ring system with one or more ring systems selected from the group consisting of cyclohexyl and phenyl. Because the elected species, Example 6-1 in Table 6-1 on page 112 of the specification, is a caprolactam fused to a phenyl ring, it is encompassed by the presently claimed caprolactam nucleus. Applicants assert that the subgeneric expression of the newly presented claims is a proper Markush grouping that represents a single invention.

Finally, Applicants' representation in the present application has changed. Please note the change in Docket Number to X-11230N, and forward all future correspondence to the address below.

Serial No. 10/733,877

Respectfully submitted,



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